

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #32
November 6, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- No new human cases of H5N1 influenza were confirmed by WHO this week; however, one additional death was recorded. The person who died was from Egypt and had become ill earlier in October. The cumulative number of confirmed human cases stands at 256, including 152 deaths (59.4%).

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next meeting of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will sponsor a “Preparing for Pandemic” Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit: <http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>
- Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Preparedness and Response will give a PanFlu Planning Presentation at the upcoming Virginia Association of Counties’ Annual Conference.
- Eastern Regional Trainer. Pamela Blair Miller, was recognized for development of a pandemic influenza media kit at the 2006 Annual National Public Health Information Coalition Conference. NPHIC's Gold Award was presented for the packet's content and value as a visual for news organizations to reinforce VDH messages to the public. The contents included-- VDH's PanFlu DVD, hand sanitizer, tissues and more all with the VDH logo. Individual recognition, earlier reported as a group award
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator is coordinating with VDEM, Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and Virginia Municipal League (VML) representatives to develop an agenda for a pandemic flu workshop on December 1 for local officials.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Eastern Region**
 - Regional team participated in the State pandemic influenza exercise.
 - Regional Trainer, Pam Blair Miller, was awarded the National Public Health Information Coalition first place award for her media packet developed for the Eastern Regional Pandemic Flu Summit.
 - Regional Trainer assisted the Virginia Beach Health Department with their Pandemic Influenza Workshop.
 - Regional Medical Consultant participated in the Sentara Norfolk General Pandemic Flu Table Top Drill.
 - Regional Public Information Officer held a Hospital Public Information Officer Pandemic Influenza workgroup meeting. The Regional Medical Consultant attended.
 - Regional Medical Consultant gave a report on regional pandemic influenza planning to the HRMMRS Oversight Committee.
 - Regional Public Information Officer and Regional Medical Consultant met with The Virginian Pilot Editors Leadership Team to explore ways the Pilot and its various outlets can work together in getting vital information to the public during a pandemic.
- **Southwest Region**
 - The Near SW PanFlu Summit was held October 31 at the Inn at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. There were 152 attendees that signed in for the Summit. The Summit was hosted by the Districts of New River, Mt. Rogers, West Piedmont, Alleghany, and Roanoke. Speakers included representatives of the Va. Dept of Health (State Emergency Planning Coordinator, BioSecurity and Infection Control for Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Va. Tech, Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance Regional Hospital Training Coordinator, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Exercise Training Officer.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**
 - Focus for the week has been on after action evaluations of FluEx '06 and preparation for vaccination drill on November 16.
- **Central Virginia**
 - CVHD completed a very successful flu vaccine dispensing site drill on Saturday, October 28. A total of 340 doses were administered to the general public. The first 100 doses were administered in the first 20 minutes after opening the doors. The drill included staff from each of the 5 district offices, working in 2 shifts, and all of the disciplines within the district participated. An AAR is in preparation.
 - Planner, Epidemiologist and Director met with administrators from Centra Health (Lynchburg General and Virginia Baptist Hospitals) to re-establish collaborative work group for medical community preparedness.
 - Director met with the director of the medical staff office at Centra to develop plans for outreach to local physicians.
 - Director met with infection control nurse and local infectious diseases physician to assist with their planned pan flu presentation to the local Chamber of Commerce.

- **Chesterfield**
 - District staff continued to analyze the results of last week's emergency exercise. Several district staff attended a Colonial Heights Advisory Committee meeting on pandemic influenza preparedness.
 - Health Educator conducted an educational presentation on pandemic influenza for approximately 50 Dupont pensioners.
- **Chickahominy**
 - Met with Goochland School Superintendent and Supervisor of Administrative Services re: PanFlu Plans for schools in Goochland County as well as Hand Washing Initiative Program
 - Discussed with two Citizen Volunteer from Hanover County beginning to build citizen coalition
 - Continued to develop PanFlu Presentation for Citizen Coalition
 - Participated on Emergency Planning Team for Flu Vaccine dispensing exercise for March.
- **Crater**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist conducted a Pandemic Influenza informational session at the Petersburg Circuit Court. In attendance were Sheriff's Department and Judicial Staff, to include Judges and City Attorneys. The presentation included an overview of PanFlu history, preparedness and response but focused on law enforcement's potential role in a pandemic.
 - Pandemic flu packets were distributed to school Superintendents in the district. The packets contained informational sheets regarding PanFlu as well as infection control information specific to the school setting.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Director, Business Manager, Nurse Manager, Environmental Health Manager, Nurse Supervisors, Epidemiologist, Human Resource Assistant, and Planner met to make last minute adjustments to prepare for the pandemic flu Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise; contacted local partners to confirm participation; distributed staff assignments, organizational charts, job action sheets, and agency list of participants to all district staff. Each county health department and all staff in the district (in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell Counties) exercised a pandemic flu POD scenario on Friday, November 3, 2006. Final numbers of flu vaccine given will be provided in the next report.
 - The following agencies participated in the FluEx '06 Dispensing Site Exercise: Bluefield Police Department, Tazewell County Department of Social Services, Tannersville Rescue Squad, Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, Tazewell County Emergency Services Coordinator, Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, Bluefield Rescue Squad, Clinch Independent Living, Virginia Department of Transportation, Commissioner of Revenue, Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, Buchanan County Department of Social Services, Russell County Board of Supervisors, Russell County Department of Social Services, Russell County Library, Lebanon Town Police, Occupational Services Enterprises, Russell County School System, Russell County Circuit Court, Russell County Emergency Services Coordinator, Russell County Sheriff's Office, Keen Mountain Correctional Facility, Castlewood Funeral Home, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Green Valley Baptist Church, Cumberland Mountain Community Services Board, Russell County Board of Supervisors, Rosedale Fire Department, Castlewood Funeral Home, Dickenson County Board of Supervisors, Dickenson County Department of Social Services,

Dickenson County Circuit Court, Dickenson County Schools, Dickenson County 911, Dickenson County Sheriff's Office, Dickenson County Faith-based volunteer organization, Dickenson County Public Service Authority, Dickenson County 911, Dickenson County Ambulance Service, St. Mary's Health Wagon, United States Post Office, Dickenson County Behavior Health Services, Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corp, Beacon of Life Ambulance Service, Buchanan County School Board, Grundy Town Police, and a local HAMM Radio Association.

- **Fairfax**

- Director met with Exxon Mobil's Occupational Health Physician Managers to discuss aspects of their Pandemic Influenza plan that impacts public health.
- Supplemented the joint Metro-VDH's Flu-Ex hygiene promotion at the Vienna metro station by distributing Fairfax County pandemic flu information; hand wash instructions; hand sanitizers; MRC volunteer brochures. Also at Huntington metro, helped distribute hand sanitizers and MRC volunteer brochures.
- Deputy Director gave PanFlu presentation at breakfast meeting for Burke Rotary Club
- PIO and PanFlu Outreach Coordinator staffed a PanFlu exhibit at Fannie Mae Corporation Employee Health Fair in Herndon.
- County's "Pan Flu Coordinating Committee" met for the first time since the plan was released in September.

- **Henrico**

- Henrico Health District conducted our mass vaccination exercise (Operation HEALTH). Web and phone based-enrollment took place Monday-Friday
- SITREPS were sent out daily. Sites were established on Friday. About 1200 doses of vaccine were provided at 2 separate locations in Henrico County. Off-site parking and school bus transportation were utilized in this event.
- The Planner provided a presentation on the Mass Vaccination plan to a group of nursing students who volunteered to participate in Operation Health.
- Epidemiologist sent the weekly avian influenza situation report to partners in the community

- **Lenowisco**

- Epidemiologist presented information on public health communications at the Hospital Preparedness meeting in Bristol. The presentation included information on pandemic flu and the use of Hamm radio equipment in the event of a disaster. Planner also attended presentation.
- Planner and Epidemiologist attended the Near-Southwest Virginia Pandemic Influenza Summit in Blacksburg.
- Planner met with the Wise County Public Schools Emergency Response/Crisis Management Task Force to discuss emergency response plans and pandemic flu planning. Planner will serve on the Task Force.
- Epidemiologist provided training on blood borne pathogens and information on pandemic flu to Scott County employees.
- Planner and Epidemiologist participated and assisted with planning of the POD Drill in the Lenowisco Health District. Information about pandemic flu was provided to all participants.

- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**

- Director and Planner provided a Pandemic Influenza presentation to 2 sets of fourth-year Bachelor of Nursing students at Shenandoah University.

- Director met with a representative of the City of Winchester to review the City's draft Pandemic Influenza plan.
- **Loudoun**
 - Flu@loudoun.gov continues to bring in numerous email requests for PanFlu information and presentations.
 - Contacted the Sprint Emergency Response Team director, who expresses interest in continuity planning, to negotiate PanFlu education dates with them for their 200 person unit at Dulles Airport plus members of upper management.
 - Scheduled a pandemic flu presentation for members of the Leesburg Lions Club.
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation for 23 managers and staff members of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation in Lansdowne, VA. The Foundation provides academic scholarships to young people worldwide and many of its' staff travel overseas extensively.
 - Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for the Black Horse Brigade 23rd Battalion "B" Company of the Virginia Defense Force headquartered in Leesburg Virginia. The Brigade provided parking lot traffic control for Loudoun County's CodeFlu 06 dispensing exercise.
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation for 16 members of the Loudoun Planters Club, a local farmers' organization in Leesburg, VA. The farmers were interested in the implications of H5N1 influenza for livestock and poultry and in personal infection control measures.
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation for 25 staff members of the Inova Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Leesburg, VA.
 - Developed a function and activity list for the newly-hired PanFlu Administrative Assistant.
- Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):
 - Collecting and analyzing evaluation data from the exercise.
 - Initiated drafting the After Action Report.
- "FluEx 06":
 - Solicited input from pertinent parties for the After Action Report Issue Spreadsheet. Most input has been received.
 - Dulles Quarantine AAR completed and sent to Office of Epidemiology.
- **Norfolk**
 - District has prepared laminated Cover Your Cough and Wash Your Hands posters for use in city and public school facilities.
 - Continuity of operations training in cross coverage, and depth of coverage in critical areas identified during the FLUEx'06 tabletop is being addressed in health district and city planning. Discussions are continuing on use of technology and distance to maintain operations.
 - Norfolk City Council retreat on October 31, 2006 included a presentation on pandemic influenza by the regional medical consultant.
- **Piedmont**
 - District staff participated in POD operations in Nottoway County and Lunenburg County.
 - A formal write up of the hot wash was sent to the County Administrators with the recommendation that we initiate discussions about use of county personnel for mass dispensing operations and discuss alternative facilities that could be used in the event of an emergency requiring 100% of population receive medication within 48 hours.

- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator (PIE) presented Pandemic Influenza information to Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Substance Abuse Division.
 - PIE and Epidemiologist attended the Near Southwest Pandemic Influenza Summit in Blacksburg.
 - Emergency Planner conducted the POD exercise for Pittsylvania-Danville Health District.
 - Planner presented Pandemic Influenza information to CERT trainees at Dan River Middle School, Tunstall Middle School, Chatham Middle School and Gretna Middle School.
 - Planner Presented Pandemic Influenza information to the local Parkinson's Support Group.
- **Prince William**
 - This week has been full of final preparations for the mass (drive-thru) vaccination exercise on November 4.
 - Attended the National Capitol Region (NCR) Emergency Planner meeting and the MMRS Pharmaceutical Cache meeting.
- **Roanoke City / Alleghany**
 - Met with Botetourt school system to discuss PanFlu planning.
 - Helped organize and participated in Near Southwest PanFlu Summit.
- **Southside**
 - Met with Brunswick County LEPC and EOC Coordinator re: Nov 3 mass flu exercise.
 - Management team completing planning, material purchasing for Mass Flu exercise.
 - Conducted a Mass Flu clinic for the public in Brunswick County.
 - Continue working on brochure for all parents in three school systems about Infectious disease, hand washing and cough etiquette.
 - Epidemiologist made PanFlu presentation to Halifax School nurses and Brunswick County school nurses and teachers.
 - PanFlu Health Educator working with school PTAs to give presentation and solicit volunteers for HD clinics.
 - Assisted HRH disaster planner to complete Hazard assessments for JACHO.
 - PanFlu Health Educator working on PanFlu presentations and mass flu clinic exercise.
 - PanFlu Health Educator has PanFlu presentations scheduled for Ruritan groups and Chambers of Commerce.
- **Three Rivers**
 - Managers at Three Rivers HD held a meeting to discuss lessons learned from the Mass Flu Clinics conducted Saturday, 28 October at the Rappahannock Community College campuses in Glens and Warsaw. A summary was forwarded to all staff for comments/suggestions.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Planner, Epidemiologist, Nurse Manager, and several nurses participated in the FLUEX'06 drill on October 23 and 24.
 - Planner made Pandemic Influenza presentations at the Piedmont Governor's School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology in Martinsville, VA. Approximately 60 high school juniors and seniors attended the four sessions.
 - Planner did a disaster preparedness presentation on local channel BTW – 21. The presentation was part of the local United Way agency television show, "Community

- Matters.” Pandemic Influenza was presented, as well as general disaster preparedness items for natural disasters.
- District Epidemiologist observed and participated in Pittsylvania-Danville Health District’s Dispensing Site Drill. The neighboring Health District’s exercise provided insight and ideas that will go into the planning of West Piedmont’s Dispensing Site exercise.
 - Patrick County held their Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise on October 25.
 - Planner was interviewed on Cable 12 – Rocky Mount. Planner provided information on pandemic flu and emergency preparedness.
 - Planner taught Terrorism Security Awareness Orientation (TSAO) course for Franklin County Office.
 - District held POD Exercises in two locations – Henry-Martinsville and Franklin County - on November 3. Three hundred flu vaccines were administered in 2.5 hours at the Henry-Martinsville site, which was located at Jack Dalton Park in Henry County. The Franklin County site was held at the Franklin County Health Department and is ongoing at the time of this report.